

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2013** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Banks and Jacobs. Also present were: Lieutenant Arthur Fredericks – Bloomfield Police Department, Chief William Riley – Center Fire District, Chief Robert Farmer, Blue Hills District and Philip Schenck, Jr., Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

POLICE

In absence of Chief Hammick, Lieutenant Arthur Fredericks presented the departmental report for July 2013.

Crime Report

The following statistics were presented for the month of July 2013:

- **3 Sex Assaults**
- **3 Assaults**
- **1 Robbery**
- **6 Burglaries (Residential)**
- **33 Larcencies**

There were 1199 dispatched calls, 1999 officer-initiated activities, 59 motor vehicle accidents, 445 motor vehicle stops, 3 DUI's, and 58 adult arrests, 5 juvenile summons with no referrals to the Juvenile Revenue Board (JRB).

The detective unit is actively investigating the following cases:

- 5 prescription fraud cases are currently being investigated. A suspect has been identified and an arrest warrant is forthcoming.
- 8 sex offenses are under investigation with 3 arrest warrants issued
- An arrest warrant was signed for suspect responsible for the credit union robbery. This suspect is currently incarcerated on unrelated charges.
- There may be multiple suspects identified for the counterfeit check washing scam. An arrest warrant is forthcoming.
- On July 13, 2013, there was a sudden death of a 65 year old male reported on Norman Drive. This death was initially suspicious due to the victim being deceased for 2 weeks prior to notification. The victim's

car was also located in Hartford, CT stripped. It was noted that the victim apparently died of a heart attack.

- There have been multiple commercial scrap metal thefts in the West Dudley Town road area. A suspect has been identified and arrested. There have been approximately 30 scrap metal thefts in the past year.
- There were two burglaries in the month of July 2013:
 - 18 Woodford Drive – Approximately \$2800 of property was stolen, no suspects
 - 337 Tunxis Avenue – Several small items were taken from this residential home

It was noted that both robberies were conducted during daylight hours.

- A Silver Alert was issued for missing person, who was located in Hartford, CT within 24 hours. This person was a high health risk and had been diagnosed with dementia.
- On July 28, 2013 there was a fatal motor vehicle accident in the vicinity of 1266 Blue Hills Avenue. The Regional Accident Construction team is currently investigating the cause of the accident.
- A fugitive from justice was arrested, being held on a \$1,000,000 bond. The plan is to have this suspect extradited back to the State of Massachusetts.
- On July 1, 2013, a robbery took place at the Mobile gas station of Blue Hills Avenue.

Councilor Jacobs inquired about punishments for individuals involved in the theft of scrap metal incidents, recruitment efforts, crime stats and recruitment of voluntary personnel for EMS and Fire.

Overall, there has been a decrease in crime activity from year to date.

Personnel Updates

On July 3, 2013 the department welcomed Officer James Thurston and Officer Kene Vugdalic. Both officers entered into Post Academy for training.

There were 4 additional new recruits who began training at Meriden Post Academy, two officers are in training in New Britain and 1 officer is currently in the field training program.

In conjunction with the Human Resources department, the Police department has been actively recruiting for vacancies. There were 152 police candidates who are scheduled for oral interviews beginning on August 13, 2013 through August 22, 2013. The department has scheduled 1 certified candidate interview on August 13, 2013.

On July 23, 2013 and July 24, 2014 an Open House was held for 150 potential candidates.

In the efforts to recruit additional officers, the department is aware that approximately 9 officers are eligible to retire in the next 12-18 months.

On July 15, 2013, Ms. Heather Hurley, part-time dispatcher entered into her 3 month training program.

On July 13, 2013, Ms. Jalisa Cuevas completed her field training and is working independently as a dispatcher.

Community Services

Officer Grant has performed several K-9 demonstrations over the past few months at summer camps, The First Cathedral, Department of Leisure Services and Fidelco.

On July 26, 2013 the department participated at the Annual West Indian festival on the Town Green.

Both construction projects on Route 189 and Route 218 have concluded. Councilor Washington inquired about other local police department covering construction sites throughout town. Lt. Fredericks gave a brief description of the mutual compact agreement with several other police departments to cover construction projects (private duty jobs) when Bloomfield officers are not available.

The department will continue to recruit new volunteers for the upcoming fall class of the Citizens Police Academy.

FIRE

Center Fire District

Chief Riley reported that the district participated in the West Indian Festival celebration on the Town Green.

There was a bedroom basement fire on Wesleyan Terrace, in which a child was playing with a lighter. The fire was contained to the room of origin. There was heavy smoke and water damage in the unit.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager elaborated on the recruitment personnel remarks made by Councilor Jacobs. Most volunteer fire departments have moved in the direction towards fire prevention, emergency medical and management. It may be a possibility review options of having a paid staff as a cost effective way to preserve jobs in the workforce.

Councilor Washington questioned the possibility of combining Fire and EMS. He stated that there may be push back due to population density, financial support and union interest to preserve jobs.

It was also noted that the new fire engine has been on line since February 2013.

MDC is also responsible for painting fire hydrants.

EMS

The recruitment and enrollment for voluntary ambulance personnel has been very successful. A new class will begin on September 4, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Banks and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.